

Untapped Potential: Applying Apps to Therapy

An Honors Thesis (Hon 499)

By

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Signed

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Abstract:

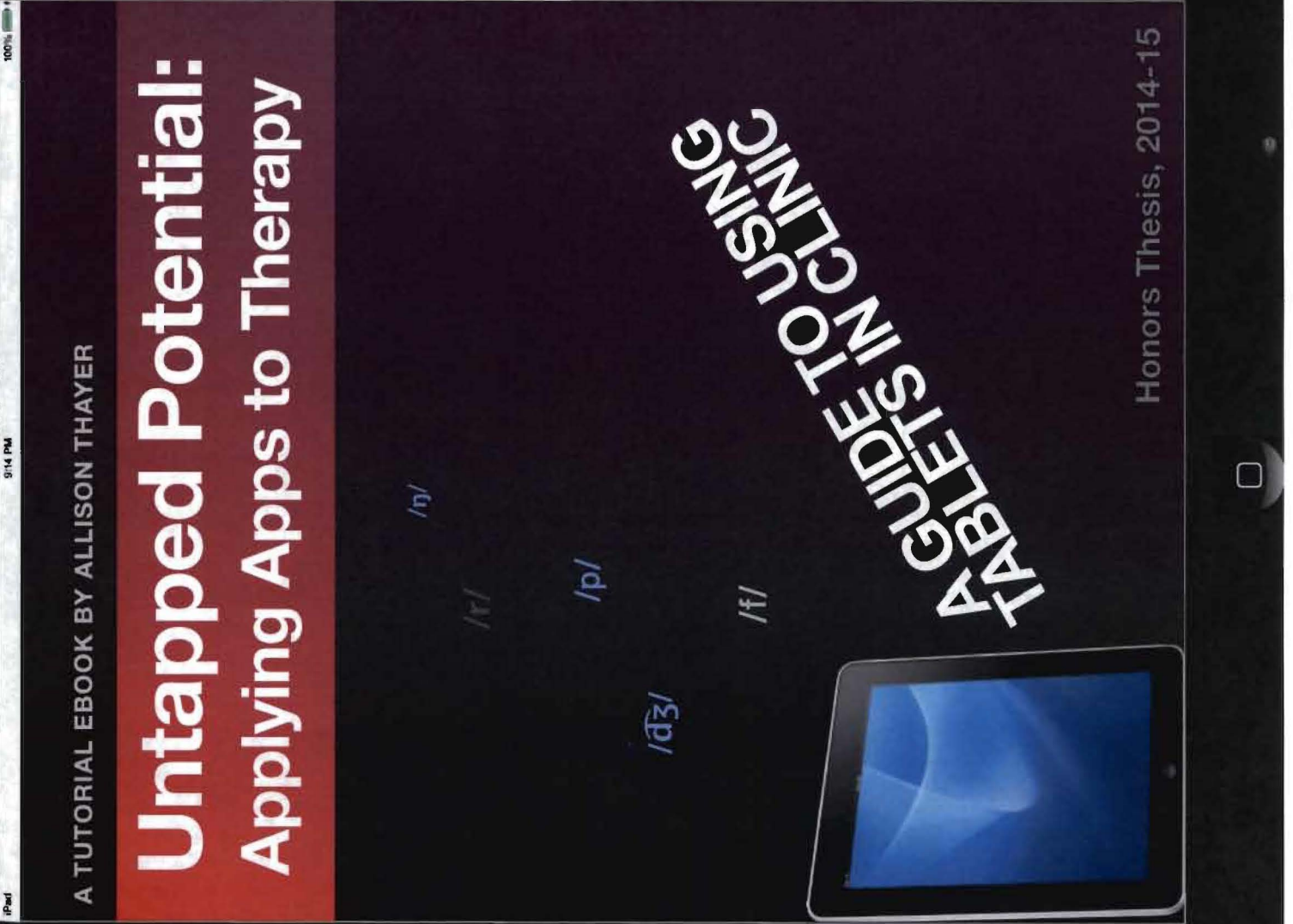
This eBook provides expository information and tutorial videos for five currently available iPad/tablet that could be beneficial for a future Speech Language Pathologist. The apps were selected based on criteria of affordability, versatility, and aesthetic quality. This project serves as a final exhibition of the summative knowledge with which the author defines her undergraduate experience. Young learners' natural proclivity for technology such as iPads is quickly expanding; in the ineluctable progression of the digital age, Speech Language Pathologists in the field should adapt to these changes and incorporate tablets to supplement their clients' therapy. For professionals to better another person's quality of life—be that in the classroom or in therapy—it is imperative to stay at the peak of the research in their field; this includes making a mindful effort to constantly implement instruction that further augments a client's development and takes new and innovative techniques into account.

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks go to Mrs. McClain, who approached this project with enthusiasm, insight, and professionalism. To Grandma Bea, who stoked my curiosity and ceaselessly extolled the importance of education: thank you, I love you. And finally, I would like to acknowledge the developers of these apps, my family and friends (sometimes one and the same), and the many Ball State professors who impacted my learning.

To Download My eBook:

Search "Untapped Potential" in the iTunes iBook Store



A TUTORIAL EBOOK BY ALLISON THAYER

Untapped Potential: Applying Apps to Therapy



A GUIDE TO USING
TABLETS IN CLINIC

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Honors Thesis, 2014-15

Using Apps in a Therapy Setting

This guide is designed to introduce aspiring clinicians to iPad applications that target areas such as articulation, language, cognition, and social skills.

Apps featured in this eBook include:

- Articulation Station
- Webber Photo Artic Castle
- My PlayHome (Lite)
- Barn Door Four: Home Edition
- Toontastic

Introduction

This eBook serves as a final exhibition of the summative knowledge with which I define my undergraduate experience.

Young learners' natural proclivity for technology (e.g. iPads) is rapidly expanding; in the ineluctable progression of the digital age, speech therapists too should adapt to these changes and incorporate tablets as supplements to their clients' therapy. To augment another person's quality of life—be that in the classroom or in speech therapy—it is imperative that professionals stay at the peak of the research in their field; this, to me, includes making a mindful effort to implement lessons that further clients' development and takes new and innovative techniques into account.

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Proverbs 2

Quick Tips For Navigation

***Untapped Potential* is designed to be a user-friendly way to explore apps before downloading them to your device! This page will introduce you to some of the multimedia elements that you will see in this eBook.**

PART 1 -The Table of Contents



By pressing the lines at the top of the screen, you will be directed to the Table of Contents. From here, you can flip to a specific section of the book. Once you have found the section you want, click the section's first page at the bottom of the screen. Now, you can continue to read the eBook from this selected section onward.

PART 2 - The App Sections

Each app is given its own section of the eBook; the first page provides an overview of basic function, pricing, and links to the developers' site. After the overview, the subsequent pages in the section provide tutorial videos and further information.

PART 3 - The Galleries

On the overview page of each app, there is a gallery of screenshots from the featured app. To view this gallery, you can either swipe on the image or pull on the image with two fingers to expand it into full-screen mode. To exit full-screen, just pinch the image with two fingers.

PART 4 - Pop-Over Information And Videos

Tutorial pages feature two main multimedia elements: a video walk-through of the chosen app and a pop-over window with pertinent or interesting information. The tutorial video will automatically play in full-screen when you tap on it. By tapping the iPad on the left-hand side of the page that says "Click Me!", a pop-over window will appear with additional information about the app.

Articulation Station

In Overview:

For clinicians with heavy caseloads, management of materials can be an arduous task. This app by Little Bee Speech provides in-app flashcards, matching games, and stories that save prep time and craft supplies for SLPs. The free trial of this app includes /p/ and all of its corresponding activities; additional sounds can be purchased individually, starting at **\$1.99** (/r/ is the most expensive phoneme at **\$7.99**).

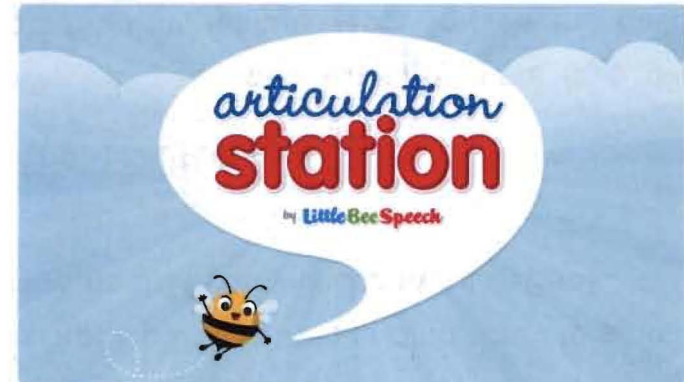
This section provides further information and tutorial videos about Articulation Station, including pages on the Words, Phrases, Sentences, and Stories activities that are available within the app.

In addition to the games and activities, Articulation Station includes in-app progress reports for multiple students' work. The clients' names (or initials), accuracy percentages, target sounds, and audio recordings can be saved for more efficient book-keeping and later evaluation.

In short: this app reduces a clinician's materials and client notes into one user-friendly interface!

More information about Little Bee Speech's products can be found at their website: <http://littlebeespeech.com/>

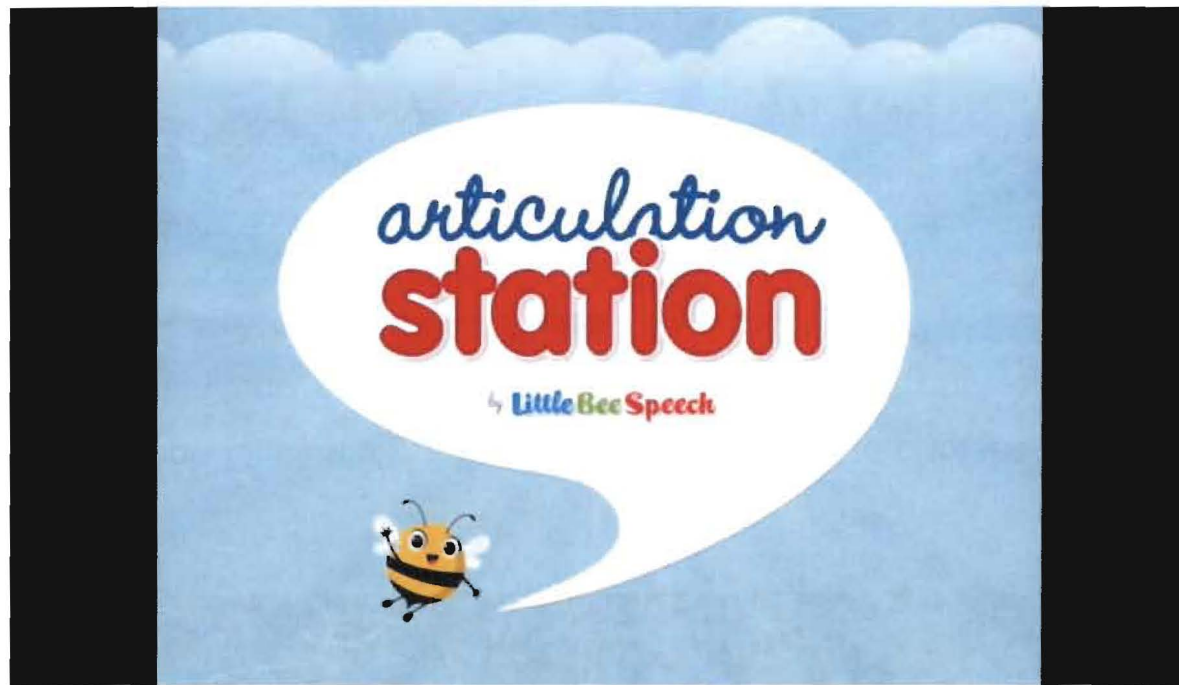
Articulation Station - This app offers many activities and in-app purchases to best suit your clients' needs.



Produced by Little Bee speech, this app provides stimulating and eye-catching photos that work well in both hour long sessions and pull-out client interactions.

Articulation Station - Words Mode

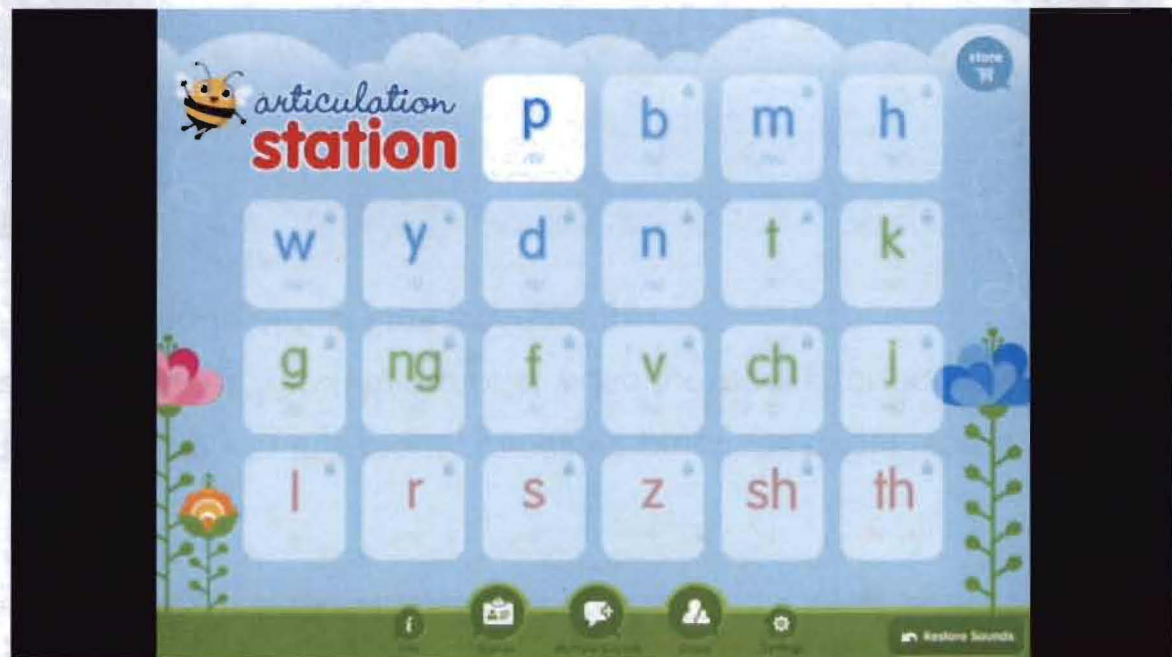
Words Mode: Flashcards and Matching - In this mode, the client practices target words in the form of flashcards or a fun matching game! Watch the tutorial video for more information about the activities that make up the Words mode of this time saving app.



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

Articulation Station - Phrases Mode

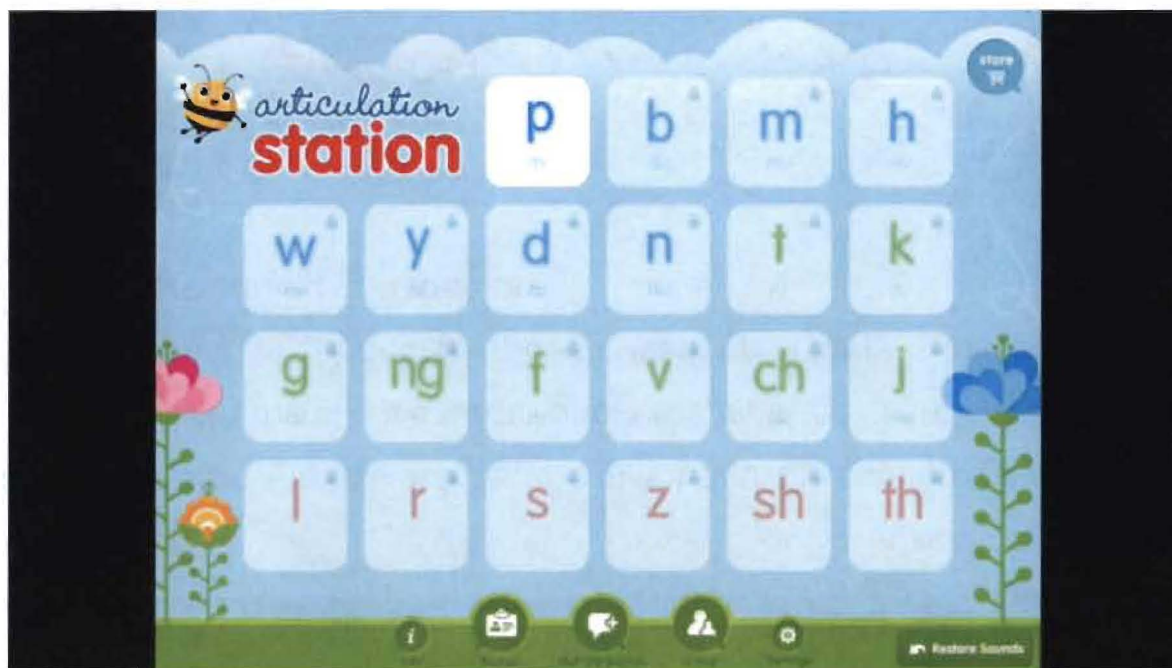
Phrases Mode: Unique and Rotating - Once a client has moved from words to phrases, the clinician is tasked with creating spontaneous, non-drill activities to target different phrases. With the options in Phrases mode, the clinician saves time and materials.



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

Articulation Station - Sentences Mode

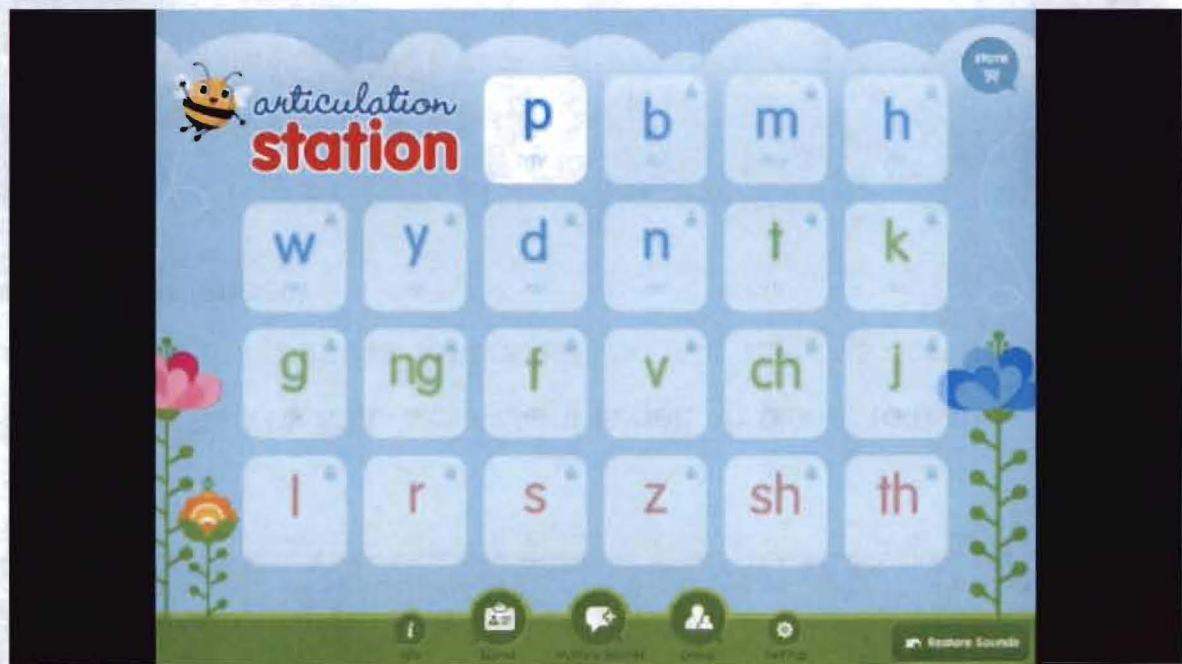
Sentences Mode: Unique and Rotating - Step by step, your client is getting closer to using your target sounds in connected speech! As the process continues, you may use this portion of Articulation Station to generate practice sentences.



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

Articulation Station - Stories Mode

Stories Mode: Reading and Comprehension - In this activity, the client and clinician are given a story to read. The stories feature words with the client's target phoneme, and the client gains valuable practice reading and using the sound in connected speech. Also, each story is followed by comprehension questions to test understanding and memory.



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

Webber Photo Articulation Castle

In Overview:

Produced by Super Duper Publications, Webber Photo Artic Castle is a widely used articulation app that features data collection options for multiple clients, 3000 photo/word cards, and a variety of matching and arcade style games. The initial download of the app is free, and is equipped with all of the functions for the sound /b/. Other phonemes can be individually purchased in-app for prices ranging from **\$0.99** to **\$5.99**, or all sounds can be purchased in a bundle for **\$39.99** (which saves roughly 20%).

Webber Photo Artic Castle is a beneficial app to have in one's arsenal; it eliminates the need to print and create flashcards by providing thousands of photorealistic images and their corresponding names--each of which will have the target phoneme highlighted in red font. The arcade options allows the clinician to further engage the client and rally motivation by playing these eye-catching, simple games. In this section, we will explore these games and provide examples of some of this app's functions.

More information about this app and Super Duper Publications can be found at <http://www.superduperinc.com>.

Webber Photo Artic Castle - Built-in games and in-app purchase options provide data collection and report information.



This app's appealing aesthetic is an exciting motivator for young clients.

Activities And Data Recording

Webber Photo Articulation Castle - This app combines an eye-catching interface with simple, effective activities to chart progress and engage clients. Here, we will preview a brief tutorial about some of this apps functions and activities.



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

My PlayHome Lite

In Overview:

Described by its developers as a “digital doll house for the iGeneration,” My PlayHome Lite is a free app released by PlayHome Software Ltd (<http://www.myplayhomeapp.com>). This intuitive app effectively supports the same level of creativity that would be present with a real play house--a key difference, however, is portability. In this version of the app, the user is provided access to the kitchen and living room of the home. Each room is fully equipped with unique and interesting discoveries. The premise of this app is simple: the user is presented with an interactive, open platform that mirrors a familiar and engaging environment.

From a clinical perspective, My PlayHome creates spacious setting in which many different areas of speech can be targeted. Clinicians can use this app to analyze clients' receptive language skills, to improve clients' ability to follow directions, or to help clients practice naming and identification.

For further exploration, the full version of this app can be purchased for **\$3.99** from the App Store. In addition to the two included rooms, the full version offers additional characters to choose from, and three more rooms of the house (bathroom, bedroom, and backyard).

This section will provide more information about My PlayHome Lite and video exploration of the app's capabilities.

My PlayHome Lite - Though not specifically designed to target speech, this simple and functional app can be used to improve language.



Presented as a virtual house, the free version of this app includes two full functioning rooms: the living room and the kitchen.

Stepping into My PlayHome

My PlayHome Lite - On this page, we'll walk through the basic layout and functions of this app. There's always something new to explore when you're in this home!



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

Barn Door Four: Home Edition

In Overview:

The Barn Door Four apps by Learnitech combine fun, eye-catching activities with Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) to create a seamless learning landscape for both language development and cognition. Targeted toward clients on the Autism spectrum (ASD) and with other learning disabilities, this app provides organized and innovative methods of language learning.

The Barn Door Four apps come in both School and Home versions, which provide a similar range in activities, though the school option provides data logs for different teachers, classes, and student profiles. While both apps have **free** available demo versions on the iTunes Store (exclusively for iPad), access to all activities and difficulty levels can be purchased in-app. Additionally, the full version of the app and all of its functions can be purchased for **\$9.99**.

This app's interactive and fluid interface promotes client engagement as well as a structured and coherent progression of the lessons.

To explore this and other apps by Learnitech, visit their website at <http://barndoorfour.com/>.

Barn Door Four: Home - BD4: Home allows the clinician to set a schedule of activities and initiate learning at a pace set by the client.



Barn Door 4 follows four friends through fun and educational games.



Taking a Tour of Barn Door Four: Home

Barn Door Four: Home Edition - This app targets key developmental areas such as fine motor skills, visual performance, communication, and sequencing. With thorough data collection and fun, student driven activities, this app can be easily tailored to a speech therapy setting.



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

Toontastic

In Overview:

Well designed, aesthetically pleasing, and free: Toontastic is fantastic. This app by Launchpad Toys allows the user to create a cartoon movie from start to finish, initial setting to denouement. Toontastic is set apart by its creative potential; the user is able to not only pick settings, characters, and music to go with the cartoon, but also *create* unique characters, draw or photograph new scene locations, and record original voiceovers for the storyline.

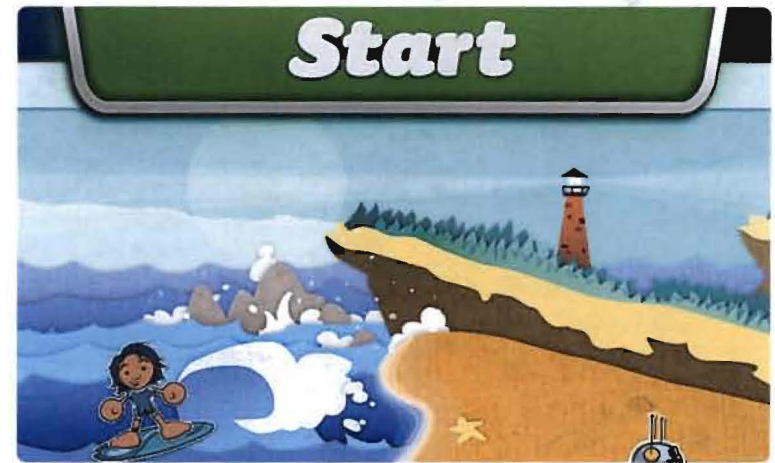
This app and all of its corresponding functions are **free** to download through the App Store.

Clinically, this app could be used to target several of the ASHA “Big Nine” areas of communication, including voice, cognition, social skills, expressive language, and fluency.

Toontastic is exceptionally user-friendly; the user is clearly and concisely guided through each step by narrated instructions. This section will explore this app by walking through the creation of a cartoon movie.

For more information, visit: <http://www.launchpadtoys.com/>

Toontastic - Use imagery, music, and setting to practice story sequencing, emotion’s role in a story, and conflict resolution.



Once the scene is set and the characters are in place, the user presses the “Start” button to activate the microphone and begin telling the story. Characters can also be moved during this recording session and their actions will be saved.



Cartoon Creation Using Toontastic

Toontastic - Developed by Launchpad Toys, Toontastic puts every step of the movie-making process into the hands of the user! From scene direction and dialogue creation to music selection and revisions, this app is perfect to target social cueing and following directions.



Touch the video above to watch a tutorial!

Author's Statement

This multimedia eBook represents the marriage of two of my academic passions: language and technology. During my undergraduate career, my areas of study included English Education, Speech/Language Pathology, and Educational Technology; simultaneously, I worked in a technology support position through the iCare Corner in the Teachers College. My work environment provided the opportunity to be not only a problem-solver, but a teacher. I often taught introductory courses on Mac software and also guided Education majors through the creation of their online digital portfolios.

In a way, this didactic eBook has become my portfolio. Built from blank pages, this book demonstrates my knowledge of video editing, digital formatting, and written language; I am honored that this work has culminated into a product that will be used by the Ball State Speech/Language Pathology department after I graduate.

My daily experience at Ball State was a mesh of technological and linguistic problem solving, and I firmly believe that melding these two seemingly insoluble fields improved my education as a whole.

With *Untapped Potential*, my goal was to present apps to aspiring clinicians in a manner that was both user-friendly and comprehensively designed. I wanted this book to be equally effective for those who are not technologically oriented as for those who are simply augmenting their therapeutic techniques. In addition to viewing video tutorials, app photo galleries, and pop-over explanations, readers can also use this eBook to take notes, bookmark their place in the text, highlight, and search for specific words in the app.

To supplement this eBook, I presented my tutorials to classes of undergraduate Speech/Language Pathology majors during the spring of 2015. These presentations provided expository examples of my featured apps and discussed the efficacy of using educational technology to its full potential in a teaching environment.

The development of this book began first with the selection of apps. To be considered, an app needed to be cost efficient, visually appealing, recently updated (in relation to spring of 2015), and applicable to at least one of the “Big Nine” communication disorders, as described by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). In addition to

these stipulations, the app needed to--in some way--transcend the limitations of traditional speech materials.

With this criteria in mind, I chose five apps that I felt contributed unique strengths to the collection as a whole. The first two apps, "Articulation Station" and "Webber Photo Articulation Castle," are specifically designed with articulation therapy in mind. "Articulation Station" serves as a wonderful replacement for physical flashcards and matching games; additionally, the ability to record data for multiple students. In general, this app saves time, money, and materials for Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs).

The second app, "Webber Photo Articulation Castle," also incorporates built-in flashcard materials, but presents the information with arcade style games that can further engage clients by challenging them to a game while working on articulation goals. The castle setting creates an exciting and imaginative backdrop for the articulation practice.

The other three apps were selected because of their potential therapeutic use; any of these can be readily adapted for therapeutic use given some creativity on the part of the clinician--an area in which SLPs shine.

"My PlayHome Lite" is a highly interactive and thorough playhouse app that could be easily used to target receptive and expressive language. This app mirrors the uses of a full-sized

playhouse without the use of bulky materials. In our speech clinic on campus, it is not uncommon to see student clinicians walking down the hallway with arms full of dollhouses, toy barns, and tubs of figurines. Unfortunately, this may not be practical when a clinician sees multiple clients (possibly in different buildings) in a day. "My PlayHome Lite" provides for the same type of language activity, but with lessened weight on the clinician--literally!

The next app, "Barn Door Four," is exceptionally useful for a clinician with multiple clients. In this app, the clinician can create a client profile and make corresponding lessons based on the client's goals. Within each lesson, the clinician chooses which activities and games the client will play. After the lesson is set, the client works through the activities one by one; the app automatically moves to the next activity in the lesson upon the completion of each goal. This is especially helpful when the clinician is working with a group of clients; while one client works on the "Barn Door Four" lesson, the clinician can tend to another client's needs.

Finally, "Toontastic" is an impressive and free app in which the user creates a cartoon movie from start to finish. With the option to use pre-made settings, characters, or create your own from scratch, there are almost unlimited creative possibilities within "Toontastic." This app would be perfect for a client who needed help with sequencing, following directions, or adjusting to social cues.

After all five apps were selected, the development of *Untapped Potential* began. The eBook was created using the iBooks Author program, and I elected to arrange each of the book's "sections" by app. The first page of each section provides a brief overview of the app's potential functions, the cost to purchase the app, and where to find more information about the app and its developer. Each overview page also includes a slideshow gallery of screenshots from the app itself (with text explanations.)

After the overview page, the subsequent pages in each section provide supplementary explanation of the app's functions, as well as tutorial videos. "Articulation Station," which had the most "modes" of operation, had multiple videos. These were created by recording and editing a walk-through of the app using QuickTime Player and iMovie, respectively. During this process, all videos and images were used in accordance with the fair use copyright policies; each of the apps' developers were contacted, and all gave explicit permission to use their material.

The Speech and Language Pathology program at Ball State strives to give its undergraduate students practical experience as speech clinicians prior to entering graduate school. In their junior and senior year of the program, students are assigned a client and provide speech therapy throughout the semester. In this therapy practicum, the student clinician is responsible for preparing lesson plans, creating and utilizing lesson materials,

and recording client progress and goals. The Speech-Language Clinic provides a library of available toys, tests, books, and other materials that clinicians can use for this therapy--in addition to these, the clinic also provides iPads for student use.

I chose to create an eBook for this project because I felt it was the most accessible option for Ball State Speech-Language Pathology students. With a free eBook, students can read *Untapped Potential* on one of the Ball State Speech Language Clinic's iPads or on their personal devices.

In my time as an undergraduate clinician, I felt that these clinic iPads were being under-utilized. The student clinicians would usually opt for physical toys or materials over digital ones. After discussing this with my advisor and peers, it seemed that that many student clinicians avoided this technology because they had no experience using it. From this, *Untapped Potential* was created.

It is my hope that this eBook will assuage any trepidation that accompanies mobile technology as a clinical tool. An area in which SLPs excel is the creation of effective and engaging lessons; combined with today's technology, these creative skills will exponentially improve therapeutic techniques and lead to better treatment for our clients.

